Import of Raw Silk

2469. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of raw silk including yarn imported during 2004;

(b) the countries from whom silk was imported;

(c) whether import of raw silk is likely to continue during 2005 also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The quantum of raw silk and silk yarn imported into the country during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Nov., 2004) are given below:

Unit: MT

Item	2003-04	2004-05
Raw Silk	9258	5502 (upto Nov., 2004)
Silk Yarn (Spun Silk Yarn, Dupion, Noil Silk Yarn)	2107	1183 (upto Sept., 2004)

P: Provisional

(b) China P. Republic, Taiwan, Brazil, Korea Republic, Uzbekistan are the major countires from where silk is imported into India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Import of silk is under Open General License (OGL). Bsides, the domestic production of raw silk is less than the consumption and the demand supply gap is fulfilled by imports.

Bhadohi carpet weaver

2470. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Commission for Women in its study report has indicated that the financial position of Bhadohi carpet weavers, 70 per cent of which constitute women, is precarious and it will further worsen unless Government help is rendered to extricate them out of poverty; and

(b) if so, the problems in brief faced by these weavers and Government's action plan to help them out?

12.00 Noon

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) On the basis of the observations and recommendation made in the